

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for determining the on time of a light that illuminates a display screen in a handheld wireless communications device, comprising:
 - turning the light that illuminates the display screen on;
 - determining one or more time on factors for a viewing activity on the display screen,
wherein the one or more time on factors include at least one of an amount of text information to be displayed on the display screen and a font size of the text information to be displayed on the display screen;
 - combining the one or more determined time on factors to provide a time on value; and
 - keeping the light that illuminates the display screen on at a first intensity level for a duration equal to the time on value and then turning the light to a second intensity level.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the second intensity level is an off state of the light.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the second intensity level is a dim mode of the light.
4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the time on factors is an ambient light level.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the ambient light level is detected by a light sensor.
6. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein the light sensor is located in close proximity to the display screen.
7. (Cancel)
8. (Cancel)
9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the time on factors is a type of activity to be performed by an end user.
10. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the time on factors is a behavioral pattern of a user of the handheld wireless communications device.
11. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the user is identifiable by the handheld wireless communications device through a password.
12. (Original) The method of Claim 10, wherein the behavioural pattern of a user is an average of time on values.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 12, wherein the average of the time on values is weighted more heavily for more recent usage by the user.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 12, wherein the time on values are stored in a log unique to the user.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein a user profile provides default values for at least a portion of the one or more time on factors.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 15, wherein the user profile provides an option for a user to reset the time on factors to default values.

17 – 25 (Cancel)

26. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the time on value is proportional to the amount of text information to be displayed on the display screen.

27. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the time on value is inversely proportional to the font size of the text information to be displayed on the display screen.

28. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the one or more time on factors include an amount of text information to be displayed on the display screen and a font size of the text information to be displayed on the display screen, wherein the time on value is proportional to the amount of

text information to be displayed on the display screen and is inversely proportional to the font size of the text information to be displayed on the display screen.

29. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the combining step further comprises:

storing a default time on value in a memory of the handheld wireless communication device; and

multiplying the determined time on factors by the default time on value and storing the result in a timer register.

30. (New) The method of Claim 3, further comprising:

maintaining the light at the second intensity level for a predetermined period of time; and
if a user of the handheld wireless communications device activates one of its functions during the predetermined period of time, then turning the light on to the first intensity level.

31. (New) The method of Claim 30, wherein the predetermined period of time is selectable by a user of the handheld wireless communications device.

32. (New) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

displaying a menu of time on factors on the display screen, the menu of time on factors including at least one of an amount of text information to be displayed on the display screen and a font size of the text information to be displayed on the display screen; and

receiving user input to select one or more of the time on factors on the menu for use in providing the time on value.

33. (New) A handheld wireless communication device having a light that illuminates a display screen, comprising:

means for turning the light that illuminates the display screen on;

means for determining one or more time on factors for a viewing activity on the display screen, wherein the one or more time on factors include at least one of an amount of text information to be displayed on the display screen and a font size of the text information to be displayed on the display screen;

means for combining the one or more determined time on factors to provide a time on value; and

means for keeping the light that illuminates the display screen on at a first intensity level for a duration equal to the time on value and then turning the light to a second intensity level.

34. (New) The device of Claim 33, wherein the second intensity level is an off state of the light.

35. (New) The device of Claim 33, wherein the second intensity level is a dim mode of the light.

36. (New) The device of Claim 33, wherein at least one of the time on factors is an ambient light level.

37. (New) The device of Claim 36, wherein the ambient light level is detected by a light sensor.

38. (New) The device of Claim 37, wherein the light sensor is located in close proximity to the display screen.

39. (New) The device of Claim 33, wherein at least one of the time on factors is a type of activity to be performed by an end user.

40. (New) The device of Claim 33, wherein at least one of the time on factors is a behavioral pattern of a user of the handheld wireless communications device.

41. (New) The device of Claim 33, wherein the user is identifiable by the handheld wireless communications device through a password.

42. (New) The device of Claim 40, wherein the behavioural pattern of a user is an average of time on values.

43. (New) The device of Claim 42, wherein the average of the time on values is weighted more heavily for more recent usage by the user.

44. (New) The device of Claim 42, wherein the time on values are stored in a log unique to the user.

45. (New) The device of Claim 33, wherein a user profile provides default values for at least a portion of the one or more time on factors.

46. (New) The device of Claim 45, wherein the user profile provides an option for a user to reset the time on factors to default values.

47. (New) The device of Claim 33, wherein the time on value is proportional to the amount of text information to be displayed on the display screen.

48. (New) The device of Claim 33, wherein the time on value is inversely proportional to the font size of the text information to be displayed on the display screen.

49. (New) The device of Claim 33, wherein the one or more time on factors include an amount of text information to be displayed on the display screen and a font size of the text information to be displayed on the display screen, wherein the time on value is proportional to the amount of text information to be displayed on the display screen and is inversely proportional to the font size of the text information to be displayed on the display screen.

50. (New) The device of Claim 33, wherein the means for combining further comprises:

means for storing a default time on value in a memory of the handheld wireless communication device; and

means for multiplying the determined time on factors by the default time on value and storing the result in a timer register.

51. (New) The device of Claim 35, further comprising:

means for maintaining the light at the second intensity level for a predetermined period of time; and

means, responsive to a user of the device activating one of its functions during the predetermined period of time, for turning the light on to the first intensity level.

52. (New) The device of Claim 51, wherein the predetermined period of time is selectable by a user of the handheld wireless communications device.

53. (New) The device of Claim 33, further comprising:

means for displaying a menu of time on factors on the display screen, the menu of time on factors including at least one of an amount of text information to be displayed on the display screen and a font size of the text information to be displayed on the display screen; and

means for receiving user input to select one or more of the time on factors on the menu for use in providing the time on value.